

Get ready for PuppyLove or Basic Manners orientation (first class of your series) or private class

Best Paw Forward Inc., 1835 Oak Haven Plantation Road, Osteen, Fl. 32764-8872
North of Oviedo and Sanford, east of Deltona. Private throughout Central Fla.
Group classes also at Spring Oaks Animal Care Center in DeLand

bestpaw@bestpaw.com

<https://bestpaw.com>

407-321-1006 home office

407-415-6601 cell

PuppyLove or Basic Manners orientation (usually by advance appointment)

- Makes it possible to start right away
- Is your first class
- Must be at a different time &/or different day from regular series times
- Regularly offered Mon., Tues., Wed. early evenings most weeks
- Also available other suggested times, especially those listed on class schedule page or appointment calendar
- Schedule orientation, small group & private classes: <https://bestpaw.com/sign-up>
- In-home private sessions available for friendly dogs
- IMPORTANT! PuppyLove pup only needs one puppy shot before starting classes – don't miss out by starting too late

Print/follow directions to Osteen site from web page or from our e-mails.

GPS & mapping programs sometimes have serious routing errors – just use to generally confirm our directions. Always change route to **avoid Boy Scout Camp Road** (unless you live in that area and know how to navigate suck-your-tires-down sugar sand).

Entire family welcome for most programs

- especially PuppyLove & Basic Manners
- Two adults, please, in each family with children younger than age 5
- Children must remain with parents or guardians at all times

Bring to first class:

- Your dog, hungry
- Vaccine or titer records (vet receipt is fine) or send online
- Treats – see details below.
- Dogs must be clean, healthy, free of parasites such as fleas, ticks etc.

No full dog tummies for class, orientation, workshops!

- Morning class or early afternoon: no breakfast until after class
- Late afternoon or evening class: light breakfast before 9 a.m.; no other food/treats until after class
- Very shy or nervous dog: no food for 24 hours before first session

- Provide fresh water at all times for your dog
- No need to withhold water before any classes nor usually at any other time

Bring great treats to every class, including orientation

3-4 different items, cooked high-protein special treats (cheaper and healthier than most dog treats)

all-meat or low-fat hot dogs

cheese

liver

boneless chicken

lunch meat

drained lean ground beef

- soft high-value treats cut into tiny bits (puffed rice to frozen pea size) or in chunks that can be easily ripped apart during class
- Avoid dog treats for this first session, especially sugar-heavy, chemical-laden, grain-filled
 - 1 lb. or more for medium to large dogs
 - 12 oz. or more for small to medium dogs
- Something novel & exciting that pup does not get at home already
- In easy-open treat pouch, treat bag or carpenter/kitchen apron with pockets – plastic baggies containing treats **not allowed** because dogs **HAVE** swallowed the bags

Older pups (6 months or older) & dogs with social issues must come to Osteen site. Young children may not attend group sessions with shy, nervous, dominant, possessive, territorial or aggressive dogs. They may come to private sessions with their dog – attending adults completely responsible for safety of attending family & friends

TRAINING EQUIPMENT

- Safe equipment required at all sessions.
- Secure leash & **snug-fitting** collar for private or orientation class

PuppyLove (8-18 weeks old at first class) **or private class for pups under 18 weeks old**

- Buckle or snap collars
- No harnesses in PuppyLove
- Leather or soft nylon leashes. Leather recommended, especially for pups already pulling hard
- Instructors more often demonstrate with class dogs that are on leather leashes (easier & safer to hold onto wiggly pups)
- Gentle Leader or Snoot Loop head collar for pups already pulling hard

Basic Manners dogs (older pups & adult dogs) or **private class for friendly older pups & adult dogs. The best & only choice for your dog that pulls hard on the leash, especially if you have trouble holding on when pulled, is the Gentle Leader**

- Snug-fitting, medium-weight **nylon slip collars** (we recommend snap slip/chokes from <https://www.rescopetproducts.com/training-choke-store>) - slip/choke collars used here so dogs cannot get out of collars in class. No yanking required
- **OR Thin nylon limited choke/slip collars snug at top of neck** without rings meeting
- **OR Gentle Leader or Snoot Loop** head collars
- Leather leash, 4-6' long, no wider than. 5/8" (available for purchase at Best Paw Forward Inc.)

When wearing a slip collar or limited slip (must be nylon), all other collars must be removed.

No chain nor partial chain collars allowed in beginning nor agility classes
No wide collars on any dog that pulls on leash

No harnesses allowed on dogs in Basic Manners nor PuppyLove sessions, nor on any agility equipment, for safety reasons. Feel free to contact us for any clarification.

For friendly smaller dogs or dogs that do not pull on leash around distraction, we may allow snug-fitting buckle or snap collars, & leash variations on occasion. We reserve the right to require safe, easily-handled equipment at any & all sessions.

Female dogs in season may not attend Basic Manners. They are still welcome in advanced sessions at owners' discretion with careful management. Owners who attend Basic Manners classes without their dogs during those weeks get free group make up sessions later.

What you should wear

- Comfortable clothing
- Non-skid shoes such as tennis or athletic shoes
- **No sandals nor flip flops**
- Pockets are a big plus!

Cell phones, pagers

- Turn off internet connections, notifications during class
- Mute phones, tablets, pagers during class
- Please do take pictures and video to share with us for class credit – talk to your instructor about downloads
- Let your instructor know about a special need to leave one on during class, or if you are filming/shooting pictures to share.
- Step at least 20 feet away from an outdoor class in Osteen, or outside in Osteen or Spring Oaks if you must take an emergency call during a class.

If your dog has serious social or noise issues, please register for Best Paw Forward Inc.'s private classes or Detouring Doggie Delinquents workshops/growl classes when available.

Work Study available! We love students who exchange their help or barter items for discounted group sessions and workshops. Details available at <https://bestpaw.com>

Discounts available with advance registration, payment before first session:

BPF Continuing/Returning Students

Seniors

Multiple dogs in household

Experienced trainers

Rescue dogs, rescue volunteers, referring rescue groups

Law enforcement, firefighters, military, Coast Guard

Service dogs, service dogs in training

Veterinary staff

Class postponement Class cancellation announcements are posted on the web page, answering machine and via Facebook. Rainy, cold and hot weather will not affect indoor classes, and we have provisions in place to work around those conditions at both sites

Group Class Locations

Best Paw Forward Inc. Sports Club, Home Office
1835 Oak Haven Plantation Rd., Osteen FL 32764-8872

Spring Oaks Animal Care Center
152Gregor Road, Deland 32720

* **Best leash for all ages: 4' to 6' leather** or cotton, easy to hold, no wider than 5/8", handmade latigo

- \$22 plus tax for 5/8" by 4'
- No wider than 5/8" for medium to large dogs, 1/2" for most smaller dogs
 - We use, sell & recommend handmade HMI's locally hand-made leather leashes.
- Usually required for Basic Dogs, recommended for puppies.
- HMI leashes available in variety of lengths, widths & styles at prices that meet or beat other local sources and most online (same price for at least 20 years!).
- Why no nylon leashes for older pups & dogs? Come in pretty colors but can hurt hands if dog pulls on leash.
- Chain leashes prohibited for all classes.
- Extendable leashes prohibited except in some advanced obedience class exercises.
- **Private or orientation class:** Will check your leash to see what is working for you and your dog. Hard pullers or Detour Doggie Delinquents students must use leather leashes in most cases.

- You are welcome to purchase or order one online elsewhere as long as you have it by your 2nd class (the one following orientation) or you must buy one of ours.

****Gentle Leader or Snoot Loop** head collars

- Walks can improve quickly.
- For easy, gentle control of pups & dogs new to training, or long-time serious pullers
- To ensure that dogs cannot slip away (not for leash corrections)
- Dog wears regular collar with tags as well as head collar – the two work quite well together
- Available online, at some big pet supply chains (the brand does matter – don't give in on other brands)
- Talk to us about how to work with a dog who is uncomfortable with strangers closely examining the fit. A snug-fitting buckle collar may be best for orientation or a private session in that case.